की कुल मात्रा निम्नानुसार है :—

चावल	92.73 लाख मीटरी टन
गेहूं	149.69 लाख मीटरी टन

(इनमें पंजाब और हरियाणा द्वारा केंद्रीय खाते पर अपने पास रखी गई 66 लाख मीटरी टन गेहूं की मात्रा शामिल है)

(ग) और (घ) यह सही है कि कवर और प्लिंथ भंडारण, जो कि भण्डारण करने की वैज्ञानिक विधि है, के अधीन गेहूं का स्टाक रखा गया है । खुले स्थान (कवर और प्लिंक भण्डारण) में निम्नलिखित मात्रायें रखी गई हैं :—

भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा—अखिल भारत	14.12 लाख मीटरी टन
पंजाब और हरियाणा में एजेंसियों द्वारा	27.87 लाख मीटरी टन

(ङ) और (च) पड़ौसी देश के साथ सद्भावपूर्ण संबंधों को प्रदर्शित करने के लिए नेपाल सरकार को 30,000 मीटरी टन चावल का निर्यात करने का निर्णय किया गया है । केंद्रीय स्टाक से फिलहाल खाद्यान्नों का निर्यात करने के बारे में कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

Construction of more godowns for Foodgrains

702. SHRI P. UPENDRA :
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been facing problem of storing foodgrains;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of foodgrains procured by Central and State agencies and whether the Food Corporation of India has purchased huge quantity of foodgrains and unable to store them;

(c) what is the number of private godowns hired by Food Corporation of India during this year and on what terms and conditions; and

(d) whether Government propose to construct more storage for foodgrains in various parts of the country ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) During the current 1993-94 Rabi marketing season the total quantity of wheat procured by Central and State agencies is 128·2 lakh tonnes. Food Corporation of India has procured 34·3 lakh tonnes and the rest has been procured by other agencies. About 13 lakh tonnes of rice has also been procured during the 1992-93 kharif marketing season.

As on 1-4-1993, Food Corporation of India had 194·59 lakh tonnes of total storage capacity available with it. However, the all time record level of procurement of 128·2 lakh tonnes during the year 1993-94 Rabi marketing season coupled with the less than usual offtake under PDS during the first 6 months of 1993, had led to certain short term problems of storage. This problem is being overcome by hiring of additional storage space both in the procuring and in the consuming regions. The total space so hired from public/private agencies during April-May' 93 was about 20 lakh tonnes. The godowns are hired by Food Corporation of India keeping in view factors like their storage worthiness and location. The rents of godowns vary from place to place and from time to time depending upon various factors such as location, type of construction, proximity to the market, infrastructural facilities, demand and supply at a given time and the like.

(d) and (e) Food Corporation of India tentatively proposes to construct additional capacity 10 lakh tonnes for storage of foodgrains during VIII Five Year Plan (1992-97). Besides, the Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporations have plans to construct 2 lakh tonnes each of foodgrains storage capacity during the plan period.

Sugar Price Rise

703. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM :
SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL :
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there was unprecedented rise in the price of sugar in the country recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the present price level of sugar both at whole sale and retail level in various parts of the country and its comparison with the price prevailing in July, 1990; and

(d) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to bring down the price of sugar to that of July, 1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The wholesale price index of sugar as on 26th June 93 showed an increase of 13.5% over the index as on 27th June '92.

(b) Owing to the increase in the retail issue price of levy sugar from Rs. 6·90 to Rs. 8·30 per Kg. w.e.f. 17-2-1993, necessitated on account of the increase in the Statutory Minimum Price, conversion cost, distribution cost, etc. and also due to the expected shortfall in sugar production in this season as well as the anticipated lower level of production during the next season, the price of sugar in the open market had begun to show an increasing trend from March 1993 which continued during April-May 1993. However, with appropriate releases, the prices have now been stabilised to some extent.

(c) Statement showing the comparative average wholesale and retail prices of sugar (S-30 grade) in the five principal markets of the country, during July 1993 and July 1990 is attached (*See* below).

(d) To check the rise in sugar price in the opon market and to maintain them at a reasonable level, the following measures have been intiated :—

(i) Adequate quantities of freesale sugar have been released each month.

(ii) Sugar mills have been directed to ensure sale/despatch of 47·5% of their monthly quota during each fortnight.

(iii) The State Governments have been requested to strictly enforce the various regulatory orders pertaining to sugar dealers in respect of stock holding limits, turnover of stocks by traders within the prescribed time limit, sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another wholesaler etc. They have also been requested to carry out periodical surprise raids to check unlawful trade practices.